

Life Lessons:
A Teacher's Guide to Teaching Life Skills in the Elementary Classroom

An Honors Thesis (Honors 499)

by

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Purpose of Thesis

There is a current, growing trend in education to teach beyond the learning of basic, academic subject matter. Teachers today are asked to take on the greater task of preparing children for the social world, through the teaching of life skills. It seems most logical then, that in teaching our children skills to assist them in life, we would incorporate stories from our own life. By doing so, we are utilizing the method of storytelling, which is inherently appealing to all of us. We are modeling the process of personal reflection. We are divulging our human side, by admitting that we have made mistakes. We are sharing that which we have learned, and illustrating the value of continued learning. Most importantly, we are drawing upon the most logical resource available to teach these valuable life skills -- life itself. *Life Lessons*, is a teacher's guide to do all of that. This thesis contains explanations, real stories, teacher reaction space, discussion prompts and story writing suggestions by which to help meet the social learning demands of our students.

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